

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03

OMB-01 EUR-12 /060 W

----- 125490

R 201710Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1936

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, AG

SUBJ: ALGIERS NARCOTICS CONFERENCE

REF: ALGIERS 0409 NOTAL

1. GOA SURETE NATIONALE (BOUZBID) HAS INFORMED EMBOFF THAT SURETE WILL MEET (AF 2361 FROM MARSEILLE ARRIVING 1800 25 FEB) AND HOUSE HIGDON (IN HOTEL ALETTI). IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF REQUEST TO ATTEND CONFERENCE AS OBSERVER IN HIS ROLE AS POST NARCOTICS COORDINATOR, BOUZBID SQUASHED IDEA FIRMLY, EXPLAINING THAT MEETING IS FOR EXPERTS TO DISCUSS NUTS AND BOLTS, PROMISING THAT IF HIGDON NEEDED INTERPRETER SURETE WOULD SUPPLY ONE, AND REITERATING THAT SURETE WOULD TAKE HIGDON TOTALLY IN HAND DURING HIS STAY HERE.

2. IN LIGHT SURETE'S DETERMINATION RUN THIS SHOW, WE WILL NOT PLAN ON MEETING HIGDON. WE WILL, HOWEVER, KEEP EMBASSY SPARE ROOM AVAILABLE IF ALETTI FALLS THROUGH.

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3. RECENT EXPERIENCES WITH SURETE-RUN OPERATIONS INDI-

CATE IT KEEPS VERY TIGHT SHIP, TO EXTENT THAT ONE DANISH NARCOTICS TEAM ALLEGEDLY HAD GREAT DIFFICULTY CONTACTING ITS EMBASSY DURING RECENT VISIT HERE. EMBASSY APPRECIATES HIGDON'S WILLINGNESS KEEP MORNING 27TH OPEN TO COME TO EMBASSY AND WE DO WANT TO GET FILLED IN. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT ENCOURAGING ALGERIAN INITIATIVE IN NARCOTICS FIELD (AND INCLUDING US) MORE IMPORTANT THAN BRIEFING US IMMEDIATELY. THEREFORE, IF SURETE APPEARS RELUCTANT TO ALLOW HIGDON TO CONTACT EMBASSY, WE WILLING AWAIT WRITTEN COMMENTS RATHER THAN JEOPARDIZE ALGERIAN WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN FUTURE.

4. DESPITE BOUZBID STRESS ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF MEETING, WE UNDERSTAND GOA PLANNING TO GIVE CONFERENCE BIG PLAY. PRESS AND CAMERAS ARE BEING LINED UP AND INTERNATIONAL NATURE APPARENTLY BEING HIGHLIGHTED.

5. GOA FEB 15 ANNOUNCED STRICTER PENALTIES FORTHOSE INVOLVED IN ECONOMIC CRIMES AND OFFENSES AGAINST MORALS AND SECURITY. IT HAS ALSO SURFACED FOR FIRST TIME ARRESTS OF OVER 70 FOREIGNERS ARRESTED ON DRUG CHARGES. OBSERVERS BELIEVE GOA PREPARING THROW BOOK AT THOSE ARRESTED IN ORDER TO DISCOURAGE OTHERS, AND THAT CURRENT ATTENTION TO NARCOTICS PART OF THIS NEW HARD LINE.

6. ANOTHER RATIONALE CURRENTLY CIRCULATING IS THAT GOA EFFORT REPRESENTS ATTEMPT EMBARRASS MOROCCANS, WHOM ALGERIANS BELIEVE ARE DRAGGING THEIR FEET IN CLAMPING DOWN ON SOURCES.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ALGIER00483
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750062-0334
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750229/aaaaazul.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ALGIERS 0409
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALGIERS NARCOTICS CONFERENCE
TAGS: SNAR, OTRA, AG, US, (HIGDON)
To: PARIS MARSEILLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006